

Appl. No. 09/691,174
Amdt. Dated September 8, 2004
Reply to Office action of June 9, 2004
Attorney Docket No. P12286-US1
EUS/J/P/04-3200

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claim Amendments

The Applicant has amended Claims 2-3, 5-9, 13, 18-19, and 21-25 and claims 1 and 17 have been canceled. Applicant respectfully submits no new matter has been added. Accordingly, claims 2-16 and 18-32 are pending in the application. Favorable reconsideration of the application is respectfully requested in view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks.

Examiner Objections – Specification

The specification was objected to because of the length of the Abstract. The Applicant thanks the Examiner for his careful review of the specification. In response, the Applicant has amended the abstract as suggested by the Examiner. The Examiner's consideration of the amendments to the specification is respectfully requested.

Examiner Objections - Claims

Claims 3-5, 9-16, 19-21 and 25-32 were objected to as to being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but were indicated as being allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. The Applicant has canceled independent claim 1 and independent claim 17 and incorporated the limitations of those claims into allowable claims 3 and 19 respectively.

Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. § 103 (a)

Claims 1 and 17 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Waylett, et al. (US 6,269,255 hereinafter Waylett) in view of Csapo, et al. (US 6,411,825 hereinafter Csapo). In order to expedite allowance of this application, the Applicant has canceled the claims 1 and 17 without prejudice and included the limitations of those claims in allowable claims 3 and 19 respectively. Therefore, this rejection with respect to these claims is deemed to be moot.

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Claims 2 and 18 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Waylett in view of Csapo and further in view of Sanata, et al. (US 6,256,502 hereinafter Santa). Claims 2 and 18 now depend from allowable claims 3 and 19 respectively and contain the same limitations. The Applicant respectfully requests withdrawal of the rejection of these claims.

Claims 6 and 22 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Waylett in view of Csapo and further in view of Onoda, et al. (US 6,038,432 hereinafter Onoda). Claims 6 and 22 now depend from allowable claims 3 and 19 respectively and contain the same limitations. The Applicant respectfully requests withdrawal of the rejection of these claims.

Claims 7 and 23 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Waylett in view of Csapo and further in view of Neitiniemi, et al. (US 6,711,388 hereinafter Neitiniemi). Claims 7 and 23 now depend from allowable claims 3 and 19 respectively and contain the same limitations. The Applicant respectfully requests withdrawal of the rejection of these claims.

Claims 8 and 24 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Waylett in view of Csapo and further in view of Kasamatsu, et al. (US 5,852,770 hereinafter Kasamatsu). Claims 8 and 24 now depend from allowable claims 3 and 19 respectively and contain the same limitations. The Applicant respectfully requests withdrawal of the rejection of these claims.

Allowable Subject Matter

The Applicant notes with appreciation the conditional allowance of claims 3-5, 9-16, 19-21 and 25-32. As the Examiner has suggested, claims 3 and 19 have been rewritten in independent form including all limitations of the base claims and any intervening claims. Dependency of claims 2, 5-9, 13, 18, 21-25 has been corrected to

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conform to the new independent claims, 3 and 19. No amendments have been made to narrow the scope of the pending claims or to create any sort of estoppel.

Prior Art Not Relied Upon

In paragraph 10 on page 7 of the Office Action, the Examiner stated that the prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to the Applicant's disclosure.

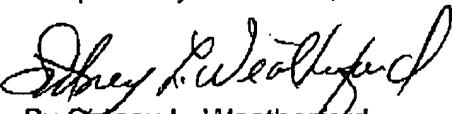
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CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing remarks, the Applicant believes all of the claims currently pending in the Application to be in a condition for allowance. The Applicant, therefore, respectfully requests that the Examiner withdraw all rejections and issue a Notice of Allowance for all pending claims.

The Applicant requests a telephonic interview if the Examiner has any questions or requires any additional information that would further or expedite the prosecution of the Application.

Respectfully submitted,



By Sidney L. Weatherford
Registration No. 45,602

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Ericsson Inc.
6300 Legacy Drive, M/S EVR 1-C-11
Plano, Texas 75024

(972) 583-8656
sidney.weatherford@ericsson.com